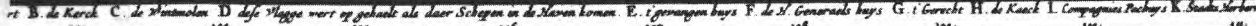
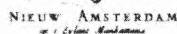




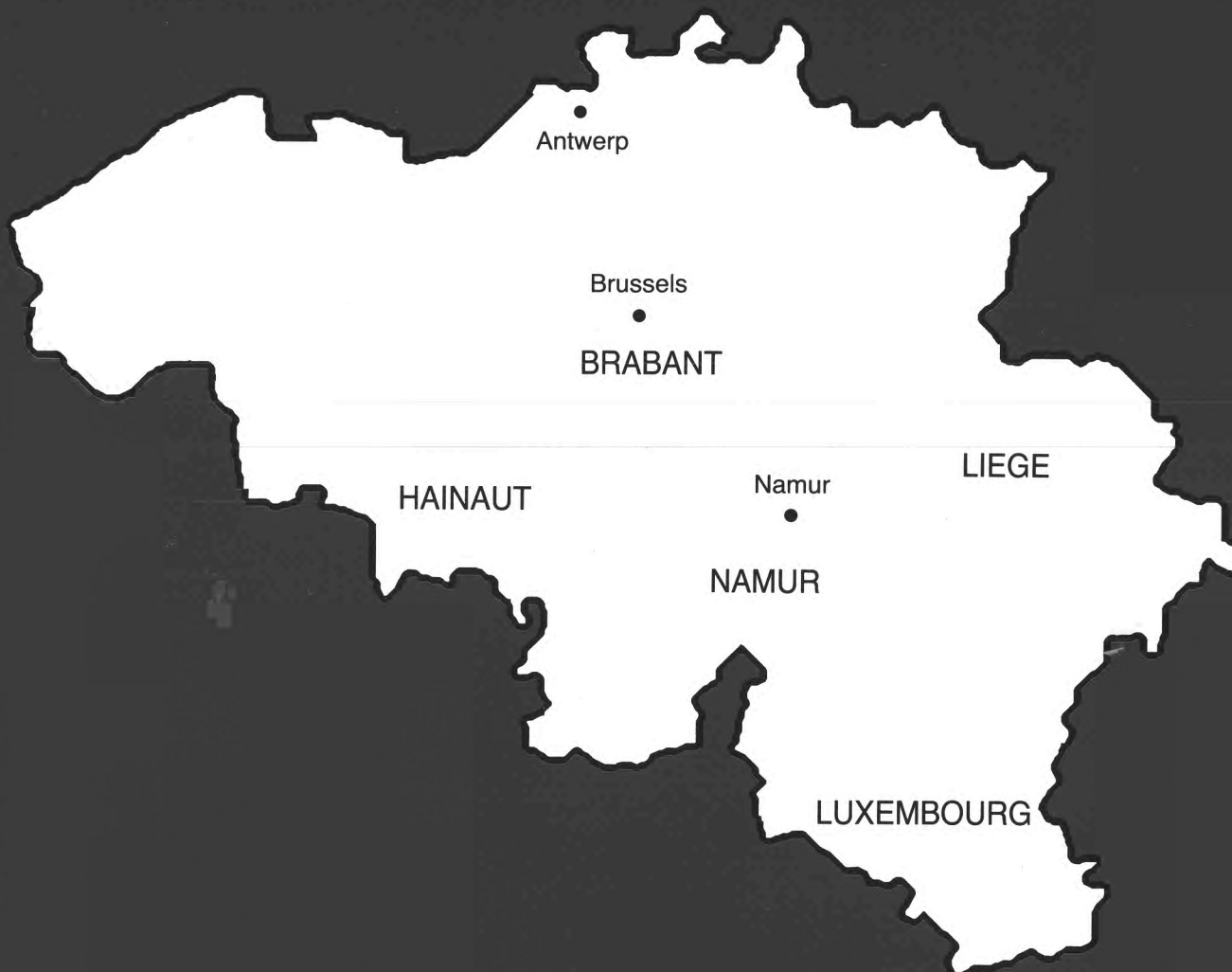
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BELGIUM



GIFT FROM

THE BELGIAN RESEARCHERS

A Genealogical and Historical Organization

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La Grande

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1624

A first contingent of Walloons lands on the banks of the Hudson. They contribute to the creation of New Amsterdam which, in 1664, was to become New York.

1776

Declaration of Independence from England of the English colonies of America.

1787

Constitution of the United States.

1789

French Revolution.

1830

Independence of Belgium and start of emigration from Luxembourg to the United States.

1845-1856

Serious food crisis in Belgium.

1852-1856

Wave of emigration of Brabantine and Hesbaye farmers to Wisconsin.

1861-1865

War of Secession in the United States.

1863

Start of emigration of miners from Hainaut and Liège to the United States.

1871

Emigration of the glassmakers from Hainaut

1914-1918

First World War.

During its history, Wallonia never experienced migratory movements comparable in number to the Anglo-Saxon, Germanic or Latin emigrations. However, from 1830 to the dawn of the XXth century, several tens of thousands of Walloons (some put the figure at 90,000) emigrated to the United States and participated in the expansion of the Midwest and the industrialization of the Northeast. Two centuries before, some of them — mostly coming from Hainaut — contributed to the foundation of New York. Although in this brochure we shall not dwell on individual cases of emigration, we should stress the important role played by some missionaries in the christianization of the United States, the orientation of the emigrants, the creation of towns or villages, etc. Nor can we omit the fact that, in the XIXth century in particular, Flemings accompanied their Walloon neighbours to the United States and played a similar role there.

What were the thrusts which encouraged farmers from Luxembourg, Brabant and Hesbaye to expatriate, followed by the glassmakers, the metalworkers and the miners from Hainaut ? What was the pattern of their transatlantic settlement ? What were, and what are today, their contributions to the economic, social and political life of America ?

In giving some of the answers to these questions, we hope to make you more aware of the Walloon spirit of enterprise in establishing some of the landmarks of a page of History common to the United States and Wallonia.



Monument set up in 1985 at Robinsonville-Champion (Wisconsin) at the place where the first Walloon emigrants settled in 1853.



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1624 : WALLOONS CONTRIBUTE TO THE CREATION OF NEW YORK



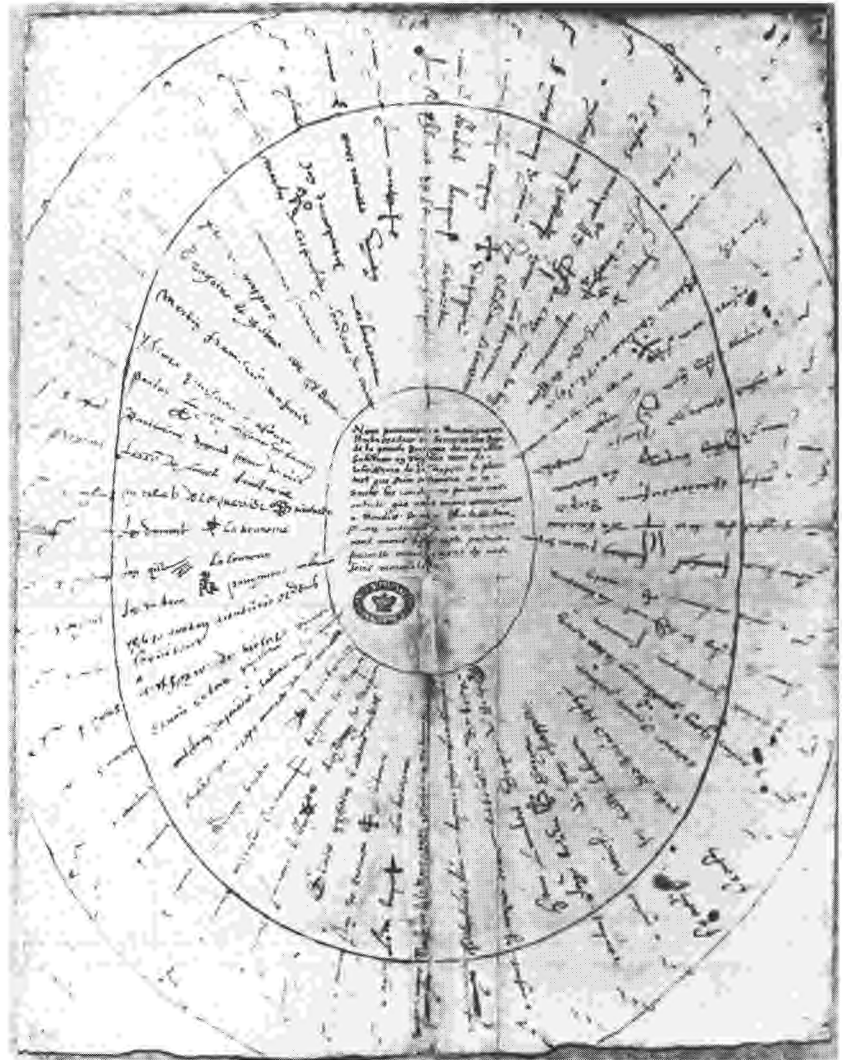
The first seal
of the State of New York (1626).



The first seal
of the City of New York (1654).

Numerous Walloon Protestants, victims of the religious persecutions of the XVI and XVII centuries, found refuge abroad. Some of them, found among the emigrants of the Mayflower, settled in New England in 1620. Some of them, who had sought refuge in Holland, emigrated to Guyana, the banks of the Hudson, Connecticut and Delaware. From the beginning of the XVII century onwards, the United Provinces (today the Netherlands) whose commercial and financial power was unceasingly asserted, attracted active and determined men. Among them was Jessé de Forest, born around 1575 in Avesnes-sur-Helpe, a small locality situated at the time in Hainaut and today attached to France. In 1621, he conceived a project of emigration to America in which he sought, from the King of England, the authorization to create an independent British colony in Virginia. Although backed by a petition signed by 56 heads of Walloon families, better known under the name of "Round Robin", this project met with hardly any success from the British Authorities. But Jessé de Forest persisted, and managed to obtain for his project the interest of a native of Antwerp, Willem Usselinx, who emigrated to Holland and was a founder member of the East India Company. Charged by his company with the creation of permanent offices in America, W. Usselinx associated Walloons with the expeditions to Guyana in 1623 and to the banks of the Hudson in 1624. Among these, 32 Walloon families, most of them coming from Hainaut, were among those who had signed the "Round Robin".

Traces in place names — Wallabout, Walkill, Walkillville, Wallomsac River, Wallomsac Village, Walloon Church, Whallonsburg — found in the States of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Delaware — perpetuate the memory of these first Walloon transatlantic emigrants. Some of them settled at the Southern tip of Manhattan and contributed to the creation of an important village which was to receive the name of "New Amsterdam". In 1626, Pierre Minuit (the name is sometimes written Minnewit), son of a farmer from Ohain in Brabant Wallon, became the first Governor. He offered to the colony of Manhattan a seal bearing the inscription "SIGILLUM NOVI BELGII". In 1654 a new seal was struck, this time bearing the inscription "SIGILLUM AMSTELLODAMENSIS IN NOVO BELGIO". Ten years later, the Duke of York was to take over the town for the English crown, and New Amsterdam became New York. Here other Walloons distinguished themselves, in particular Pierre De Lannoy, one of the ancestors of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who acted as Mayor from 1688 to 1690.



The « Round Robin » signed in 1621 by
56 heads of Walloon families.



Monument set up in 1924 at the
southernmost tip of Manhattan,
commemorating the first Walloon
colonists who landed three hundred
years earlier on the banks of the
Hudson.

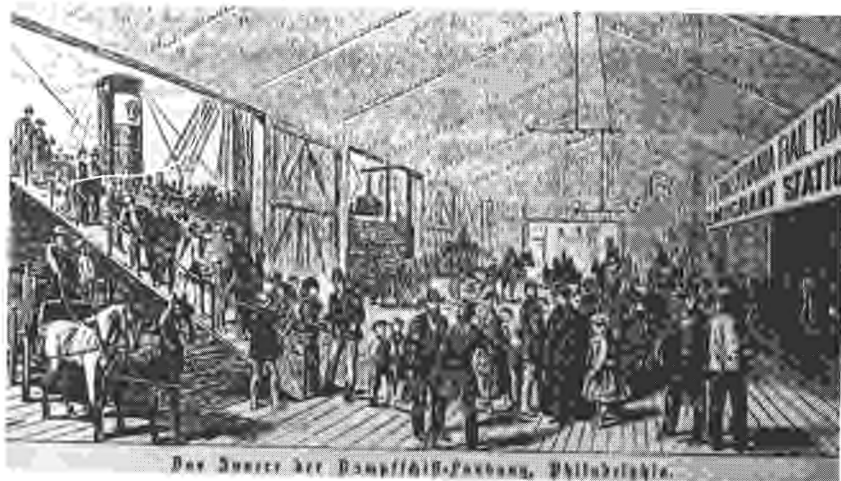


Emigrants family during the Atlantic crossing.



Antwerp, where most of the Walloon emigrants embarked, became in the XIXth century, with Bremen, Hambourg and Liverpool, one of the main ports of European emigration in the XIXth century.

Emigrants landing at Philadelphia.



Der Duxer der Dampfmaschinen-Fabrik, Philadelphia.



Dampfer-Werke und Maschinen-Fabrik, Philadelphia.

1830 : EMIGRATION FROM THE RURAL AREAS OF LUXEMBOURG

According to some estimates, nearly 6,000 Walloons, coming from Belgian Luxembourg, settled in the United States during the XIXth century. In relation to other Walloon provinces, the emigration from Luxembourg was characterized by its early start. From the first days of Belgian independence to the dawn of the great food crisis in 1844-1845, 1,142 emigrants from Luxembourg settled on the other side of the Atlantic; it was only some ten years later that the Brabantines were to decide spontaneously to follow suit. It was the Arlon region that was mainly affected by this first wave of emigration (725 emigrants), whereas the region of Virton (326 emigrants) and Neufchâteau (91 emigrants) contributed only moderately.

The encouraging letters sent back by the first emigrants, the action of recruitment agents, but also the proximity of Germany which from 1845 onwards took the lead in emigration to North America, gave a decisive impulse to the expatriation of the Luxembourgers. Day-labourers, farmers, craftsmen or foresters, they scattered far and wide, settling wherever they could find cheap land, and mostly lived isolated from one another in small groups or in families. Some of them settled down near to those who had come from the Grand Duchy and who, by their associations or their newspapers, had remained in close contact.

The first colonists settled in the States of Indiana and New York, while others preferred Ohio, Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Kentucky and Michigan. Only four centres of population, Sheldon in New York State, Leopold in Indiana, Town Belgium in Wisconsin, and Saint Louis in Missouri were distinguished by a majority and homogeneous Luxembourg population.

In these four communities, the clearing of land was a slow and painful process. In Leopold, there were some who tried vainly to improve their situation by making staves for casks, spokes for cartwheels, or barrel hoops which they transported in flat-bottomed boats to New Orleans. Others, in Town Belgium, sold the sawn wood at Port Washington where they hoped to make a substantial profit. Little by little, by the sweat of their brow and by sacrifices, after struggling against disease and poverty, most of them acquired a viable agricultural holding and a few heads of cattle. Some of them even got rich quick, such as the Sheldon farmer who had come from Messancy and who, in 1856 already ran a property of 100 acres, 20 cattle, 2 horses and 5 pigs. At the same time, in Leopold, there were Luxemburgers who owned a grocery store, a haberdashery, a shoe shop and a tavern, while the Belgians of Town Belgium dominated the county elections and chose from among their ranks their mayors, aldermen, magistrates and constables.

To sum up, after a difficult start, the great majority of the Luxemburgers prospered, thanks in particular to agriculture and stock farming. Unfortunately, their dispersion over several Middle Western States, the isolation of the families and the groups, do not permit us to enrich the history with anecdotes or to characterize in greater detail their lives and their contributions to the development of the American States where they settled.

1852 : EMIGRATION OF THE FARMERS FROM BRABANT AND HESBAYE

In September 1852, two Belgian families from Grez-Doiceau in Brabant Wallon, decided spontaneously to emigrate to the United States. We do not know whether it was the saga of these two families or the example of their Luxembourg compatriots which set off the movement of emigration from Brabant and Hesbaye to the New World; the sources, and particularly the oral traditions, show an exemplary discretion on this subject. However, it was also from Grez-Doiceau and its immediate neighbourhood that, in May 1853, the first mass departure for the United States was organized. 81 Brabantines embarked in an old American threemaster, the Quinnebaug. After having braved several storms, they landed at New York on 5 July 1853, after a voyage lasting almost 50 days.

According to the American tradition, the Belgian emigrants had hardly decided on their destination when they left the port of Antwerp. It was only during the Atlantic crossing that they decided to accompany the Dutch voyagers to Wisconsin. They settled to the northeast of Green Bay, where the forests of the peninsula began, and there they established the nucleus of their future Belgian colony. Today, the Belgian population extends over a triangle formed by Bay Settlement, Sturgeon Bay and Algoma, covering Door, Brown and Kewaunee counties.

From September 1853 onwards, and probably before they were able to receive any reassuring news on the establishment of the first pioneers, other families embarked for the United States. From now on, the movement was launched, and it seemed that nothing could stop it, not even the pious warnings of some Belgian politicians on the malpractices of transatlantic emigration. This emigration expanded considerably in 1855 and 1856, involving in particular the populations of the East of Brabant Wallon (the cantons of Jodoigne, Perwez and Wavre), of the Namur region of Hesbaye (the cantons of Eghezée and Gembloux) and, to a lesser extent, those of the Hesbaye liégeoise. To sum up, it is estimated that between 5,000 and 7,500 Brabantines and Hesbignons answered the call of the New World from 1852 to 1856. What were the causes of this movement of emigration? A situation of economic affliction generally provides a context that is favourable to mass emigration. The emigration of the Brabantines and the Hesbignons is no exception, and belongs to the food and industrial crisis of the mid-19th Century.

Although Belgium experienced an early industrial development, in the middle of the XIXth century agriculture still provided employment for 50% of the active population, and had to feed a population which had not ceased to grow since the first quarter of the century. The Brabant landscape, as described by the cadaster and the census of 1846, shows us a soil that is cultivated up into the remotest corners and parcelled up to an extreme degree. The peasants could not gain a decent living from the products of their land alone. So many of them found additional sources of income in rural industries (distilling, brewing, sugar milling, etc.) and home activities (cutlery, straw plaiting, nail-making).

It was quite obvious that this rural universe based on small holdings and the cumulation of agricultural and proto-industrial activities was at the mercy of the least vagaries of the economic cycle. Belgian peasants became cruelly aware of this when, in the middle of the XIX century, from 1845 to 1856, several scourges mingled their devastating effects. The potato disease, with several years of disastrous harvests, spread consternation among the most disadvantaged classes, not only in Belgium but in the whole of Western Europe. Food prices climbed in proportions it is difficult to imagine nowadays, sometimes by more than 100% from one year to another, while there was practically no readjustment of wages. Moreover, the industrial revolution was gaining ground day by day and was pitilessly imposing



Namur (Wisconsin).



The tradition of Belgian beer perpetuated in Wisconsin.



A reconstructed «Belgian farm» in the Heritage Hill historical park at Green Bay (Wisconsin).

The giants of Walhain (Belgium) participated in the inauguration of the monument to the Walloons at Robinsonville-Champion (Wisconsin).





Farmers from Brabant and Namur, settled in Illinois, imported from Belgium prize cattle and Brabantine horses.



The farm established in Wisconsin in 1881 by Pierre MATHU, of Walloon origin. It is still handed down from father to son.



«Packers Hall of Fame». Packers was the surname given to the inhabitants of Green Bay, commemorating one of their characteristic activities: the packing of «bardeaux». The surname «Lambeau», given to the stadium of the Green Bay football team, is Belgian.

The memory of Walloon origins is still firmly rooted.

PENINSULA BELGIAN AMERICAN CLUB

NAMUR, WISCONSIN
P. O. BRUSSELS, WISCONSIN 54204

The inauguration of the monument to the Walloons at Robinsonville-Champion (Wisconsin).



its economic conditions and constraints. Technological development and the competition from the «new industry» on the one hand, the development of the means of communication and urbanization, on the other hand, tolled the knell of the home industries and the rural industries. The battle was too unequal, and it ended in their disappearance.

This avalanche of misfortunes was enough to upset a precarious balance, transforming into starving and uprooted beggars peasants who, so far, had just been able to eke a living from the products of their land. The famine and the epidemics of cholera and typhus which arrived in its train were accompanied by great surges of mortality. Rather than swell the ranks of the poverty-stricken and the victims of the crisis, some of the rural work force preferred to abandon the earth of their ancestors and to search elsewhere for more prosperous conditions of existence. It is in this way that emigration to the United States constituted a last hope for a good number of country families. These were essentially poor peasants, day-labourers and share-croppers, accompanied by their wives and children, and sometimes even by their forbears, who swelled the flood of emigration to the United States. Their numbers also included weavers, hat-makers, cutlers, carpenters and others fleeing from the unequal competition imposed on them by the «new industry».

While the vagaries of the economic cycle created a climate favourable to expatriation, this would not have been able to develop without the combined action of two factors. The recruiting agents, in the service of Antwerp shipowners or American colonization companies, made active and effective propaganda for emigration. The appeals from parents or friends already installed in the New World, and their success, were also powerful attractions.

However, all the sources, and in particular the consular reports, denounce the deplorable living conditions of Belgian colonists during the first years of their installation in Wisconsin. Hope rapidly gave way to bitterness. These emigrants, hoping to become rich landowners, found they were faced only by uncultivated lands covered with a dense forest of deciduous and coniferous trees. In spite of the fatigue which racked them, weakened as they were by fevers, dysentery and cholera, they set to work systematically clearing their lands. As the months and years went by, these wild lands were changed into arable land, ready to receive their sowings. The felled trees were transformed into shingles, then transported by schooner as far as Green Bay where they were sold for a good price. In 1860, it is estimated that 4 million wooden shingles were despatched from the region of Brussels alone. This very lucrative trade was to permit them to buy a few head of cattle and, later, farming implements and modern agricultural machines. Soon, they could see springing up here and there family workshops offering work to carpenters, wheelwrights, sawyers and blacksmiths, while others, profiting from the winter, travelled up to Michigan to work in the sawmills there. Roads, schools, churches and shops were built. The Walloons of Wisconsin, who had become American citizens, began to share in the administrative management of their State. Some of them occupied important positions in the State. In a word, life was beginning to be organized everywhere, and the blighted hopes of the first years began to vanish from their memories.

Attracted by the spirit of enterprise of these colonists, American businessmen created industries which rapidly began to prosper. We may quote the case of Gardner who, in a few years, founded at Little Sturgeon a commercial and industrial centre, a shipyard, and a maritime company employing some 400 workers including a hundred carpenters and 150 lumberjacks.

The great fire of 1871, by destroying whole acres of woodland, dried up an important source of income for the Belgians, but did make it easier to convert the extensive woodlands into arable land. From now on, cultivation and stockfarming were to become the main occupations of the Belgian colonists.

Farms and properties increased in size, the wool trade developed, and the manufacture of butter, and still more that of cheese, made great strides. In 1884 there were about a dozen cheesemakers. Four years later, their number had doubled, and they were producing from 1,000 to 2,000 pounds of cheese a week. In the same way, near Green Bay, market gardening and the production of strawberries assured the prosperity of some colonists; it is said that some of them despatched entire waggonsloads of ten tons.

In conclusion: in a few years, the emigrants from Brabant and Hesbaye contributed, by a mighty effort of will, to transforming a wild country into a prosperous farming State. This emigration to the United States, for all its importance, was only ephemeral and can be perceived as a cyclical phenomenon providing the remedy for overpopulation, underemployment and a poverty which had become endemic. This movement was to resume afterwards, but never to the extent observed between 1853 and 1856. It was to be especially the miners, the glassmakers and, to a lesser extent, the metalworkers who were to assure, from the 1860s onwards and up to the dawn of the First World War, the perennity of Walloon emigration to the United States.



1863 : EMIGRATION OF THE MINERS FROM HAINAUT, LIEGE AND NAMUR

The "industrial revolution" optimized the use of the economic advantages of Wallonia : its natural resources first of all, and then the ability of its workers, fashioned by what was already a long experience of metallurgy and of working in the mines. At the dawn of the XIXth century, there were neither urban centres nor large industrial centres in Hainaut. Thanks to mechanization, the division of labour, the concentration of manpower and the intervention of capital, it was to become, in less than half a century, a prosperous industrial province. The fields and the pastures which covered the Hainaut landscape gave way to factories, coal heaps and miners quarters. New towns were created, and more and more workers flocked to other towns. American coal bosses, attracted by the industrial development of Western Europe, turned to it for the skilled manpower of which there was such a drastic shortage in America. Wallonia, whose industrial awakening was the first after that of England, was among their targets of choice and offered a prime recruiting ground.

In 1863, when the Civil War was claiming more and more able-bodied men, 12 coal mining companies from Illinois and one from Missouri despatched a Belgian emissary, Louis Dochez, to Belgium. Charged with promoting the emigration of Belgian miners, we had to gain the confidence of the Belgian government, if not its cooperation. Doctor Henrotin, Belgian Consul in Chicago, and the Governor of Illinois stood surety with the Belgian Administration for the standing of the American employers and of their messenger. Nothing was to stand in the way of L. Dochez' mission, especially since, from 1861 onwards, the collieries of the basin of Charleroi and of the Borinage were passing through a structural crisis which was to reveal one of the evils of modern capitalism: overproduction. The workers made redundant, and the others whose wages had fallen by several percent in less than three years, could not fail to be tempted by the propositions of the American industrialists. The latter, in a brochure entitled "Notice to workers in coal mines", exalted the astonishing salubrity of the mines in the Middle West, and offered the Walloon miners a contract of employment for three years, plus the crossing to the United States with free food, and a monthly wage of 40 dollars, or 80 francs more than in Belgium.

Towards the end of July 1863, in spite of the orders for caution dispensed by some mayors who feared they would have to look after the families if the scheme failed, miners from the collieries of Cuesmes, Jemappes and Pâturages embarked for the United States. The first two convoys, composed respectively of 82 and 171 persons, arrived in New York on 5 October and 3 November 1863. Although it is not possible for us, in the present state of the researches, to judge the extent of this emigration, we know that it continued and that it also attracted miners from Namur and from Liège. We also know that mineworkers from the region of Charleroi emigrated to the State of Pennsylvania between 1880 and 1914.

The moment they arrived in New York, the first emigrants were assailed by recruiting sergeants brandishing military contracts. Four miners signed on with the Northern army, but the others continued their journey to the Illinois coalfields which were in the grip of strikes launched by the Irish workers who were dissatisfied with their wages. Most of the Walloon workers joined the strikes and broke their contracts; the depreciation of the American currency had halved the value in Belgian francs of the wage they had been promised. Some were discouraged and tried to return to Belgium, while others got together and created, in Illinois and in Pennsylvania, their own coal mining companies.

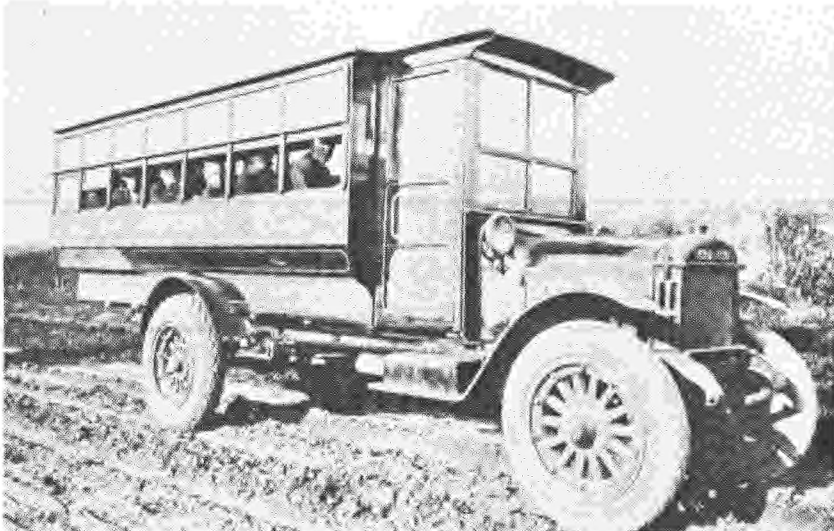


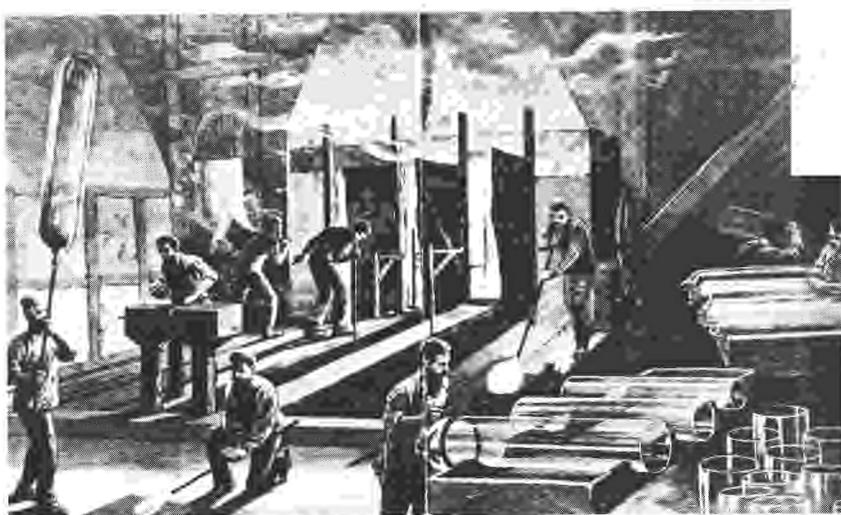
It is said that whole columns of emigrants, composed sometimes of several hundred persons, stretched across the countryside and the towns en route for Antwerp.



The « Red Star Line » was one of the main shipping companies recruiting in Wallonia for emigrants during the last decades of the XIX century.

One of the first buses used for transporting the miners to the mine.





Manufacture of plate glass from "canons" in the Charleroi region.



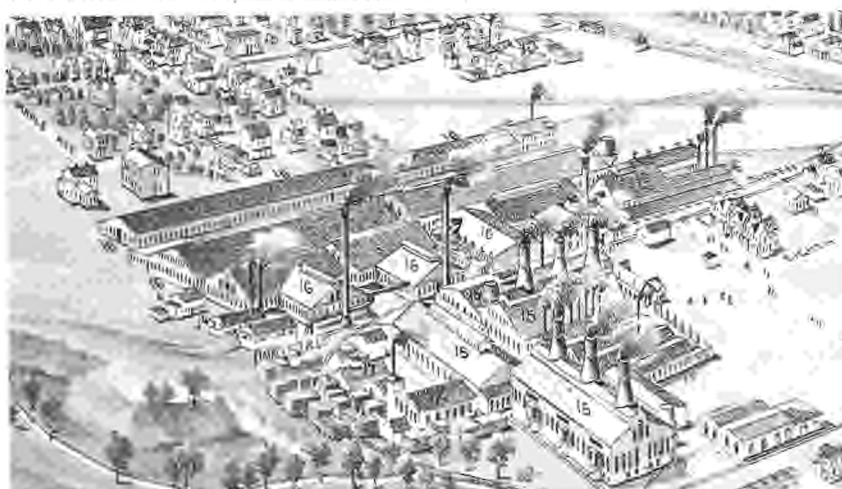
In 1901, E. GOBBE and F. FOURCAULT invented a mechanical process for making plate glass known as the "Belgian drawing process".



Some traces of the settlement of glassmakers from the Charleroi region in Pennsylvania.



Plan of the industrial complex of Jeannette in Pennsylvania.



1871 : EMIGRATION OF THE GLASSMAKERS FROM HAINAUT

Together with coal, it was iron, textiles and glass that had allowed Wallonia to become one of the main industrial poles of Europe in the XIXth century. The glassmaking industry, concentrated in the Charleroi region, and heir of a tradition that was already old, could count on the extraordinary skill of its workers and on the discoveries of some men of the region. In 1812, Drion discovered white glass, and in 1836 coloured glass. Less than a century later, E. Fourcault and E. Gobbe invented a mechanical process for manufacturing plate glass, which is also called the "Belgian drawing process".

Between 1870 and 1872, the glass industry was to pass through a major crisis. Forced to throttle the rise in selling prices which had been caused by a growing need for coal and an increase in the price of this fuel, the master glassmakers took measures which were going to strike a blow at the well-being and secular liberty of the glassworkers: reduction of wages, training a larger number of apprentices, increasing the period of apprenticeship from 3 years to 7, introduction of modern techniques of production such as the basin furnace. Most of them gave way to the employers' demands, but some decided to expatriate to the United States.

In 1882, the resistance of the glassworkers was expressed in the creation of a society "L'Union Verrière" which was to establish close contacts with the "Fédération Universelle des Verriers" and to affiliate to the "Knights of Labor of America" under the name of "Assemblée des Verriers à Vitres Belges Eureka n° 3683". The great strike of 1884, called by the Union Verrière, was not enough to improve the social situation of the workers: wages continued to fall, working conditions deteriorated, and many workers swelled the ranks of the unemployed. It was then that emigration to the United States, and more particularly to Pennsylvania, promoted by the Union Verrière and by the American recruiting agents looking for skilled workers, was considerably extended. Dampremy, Jumet and even Lodelinsart were rapidly to become important sources of emigration.

A fresh round of wage cuts during the winter of 1885-1886 and growing unemployment were to serve as detonator for the first great explosion of popular anger in Wallonia. It burst out at Liège on 18 March 1886, and rapidly spread to Hainaut where mineworkers, metalworkers and glassworkers left their jobs and took to the streets. Full-scale riots broke out in the Charleroi region. In Jumet, the glassworks of Eugène Baudoux was burnt down and several of the employers' houses were looted. Police repression was to be sanguinary. At Roux, on 26 and 27 March, 12 demonstrators were killed and dozens of others wounded. Accused of being the instigators of these days of tragedy, the leaders of the Union Verrière, Xavier Schmidt and Oscar Falleur, were sentenced, and some of its members, including Falleur, had to seek exile in the United States.

Finally, during the first decade of the XXth century, the crises of overproduction multiplied and resulted everywhere in reduced wages and lost jobs. Once again, in this deteriorating context, there was a recrudescence of the emigration of glassworkers to the United States. So it seems that transatlantic emigration was perceived by many as one of the solutions to the "social question". Now, most of the candidates for emigration could not be ignorant of the severity of the American laws voted in 1885 and 1887 hostile to foreign workers. The first banned the hiring of foreign workers, while the second was to prevent them from penetrating United States territory. Benefiting from the protection of the "Knights of Labor", and in particular of its Pittsburgh section, and even from the intervention of personalities who were influential in the trade union world — Oscar Falleur, for instance, who from the moment of his arrival in Jeannette in 1888 became the indispensable link between American and Belgian trade union associations — many succeeded in getting round the obstacles of American legislation.

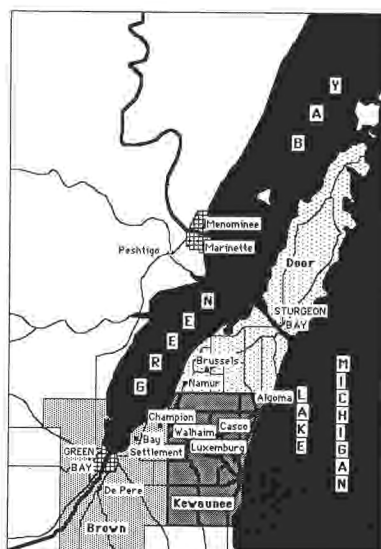
Pennsylvania very soon became the main pole of attraction for the Belgian glassworkers. They were hired in Pittsburgh and its surroundings: centres such as Floreffe, Charleroi or Jeannette, as the names indicate it, owe a great part of their development and their prosperity to the presence of the Walloon workers.

According to contemporary accounts, the industrial complex of Jeannette, established alongside the Pittsburgh-Greensburg railroad, and its urban centre were set up in 14 months. Even before the official recognition of the township, 246 families of Walloon glassworkers were recorded there, soon to be joined, between 1889 and 1904, by 360 of their compatriots. In 1889, Walloon glassworkers who were specialists in sheet glass, founded at Point Marion, Pennsylvania, a branch of the "Jeannette Glass Company".

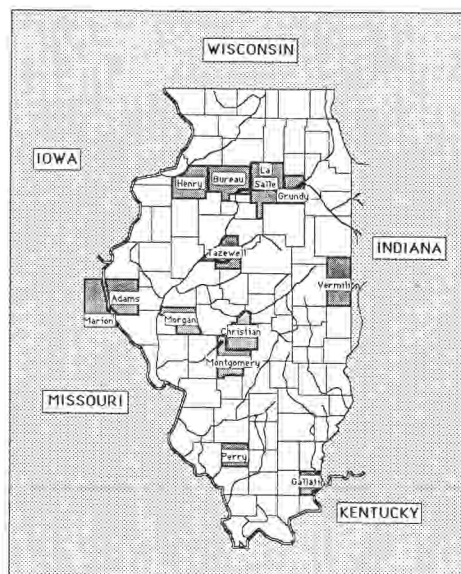
In 1908, 60 Belgian families who had first settled in Indiana or in Pennsylvania moved to Salem in the State of West Virginia. Each of them invested a hundred dollars to found the "Société Coopérative de Verre et de Vitre". Salem prospered up to 1925, but was not able to prevent the departure of many glassmakers attracted by the more economic methods of the industrial manufacture of glass.

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Some of the places where Walloons settled in Brown, Door and Kewaunee Counties in Wisconsin.



From 1863 onwards, miners from the Borinage and the Charleroi region operated coal mines in several counties of Illinois (hatched dark grey on the map). In 1909, several of them were among the 259 victims in the fire of the Cherry mine (county of Bureau).

BELGIUM : New York, Illinois and Wisconsin
BELGIUM HILL : Pennsylvania
BELGIQUE : Missouri
BONDUEL : Minnesota
BOITSFORT : Washington
BRUSSELS : Illinois, Missouri and Wisconsin
CHARLEROI : Pennsylvania
FLOREFFE : Pennsylvania
HENNEPIN : Illinois and Minnesota
JEANNETTE : Pennsylvania
LAKE WALOON : Michigan
LEOPOLD : Indiana
LIEGE : Missouri
LUXEMBOURG : in 7 States
MARTIN : Minnesota
NAMUR : Wisconsin
PHILIPSVILLE : Pennsylvania
PEPIN : Minnesota and Wisconsin
ROSIERE : Wisconsin
SAINT ANTONY FALLS (Cfr Father Antoine Hennepin) : Minnesota
SOLVAY : New York
WALHAIN : Wisconsin
WALLONIA : Kentucky



U.S.A.





La Grande OR Family History Center

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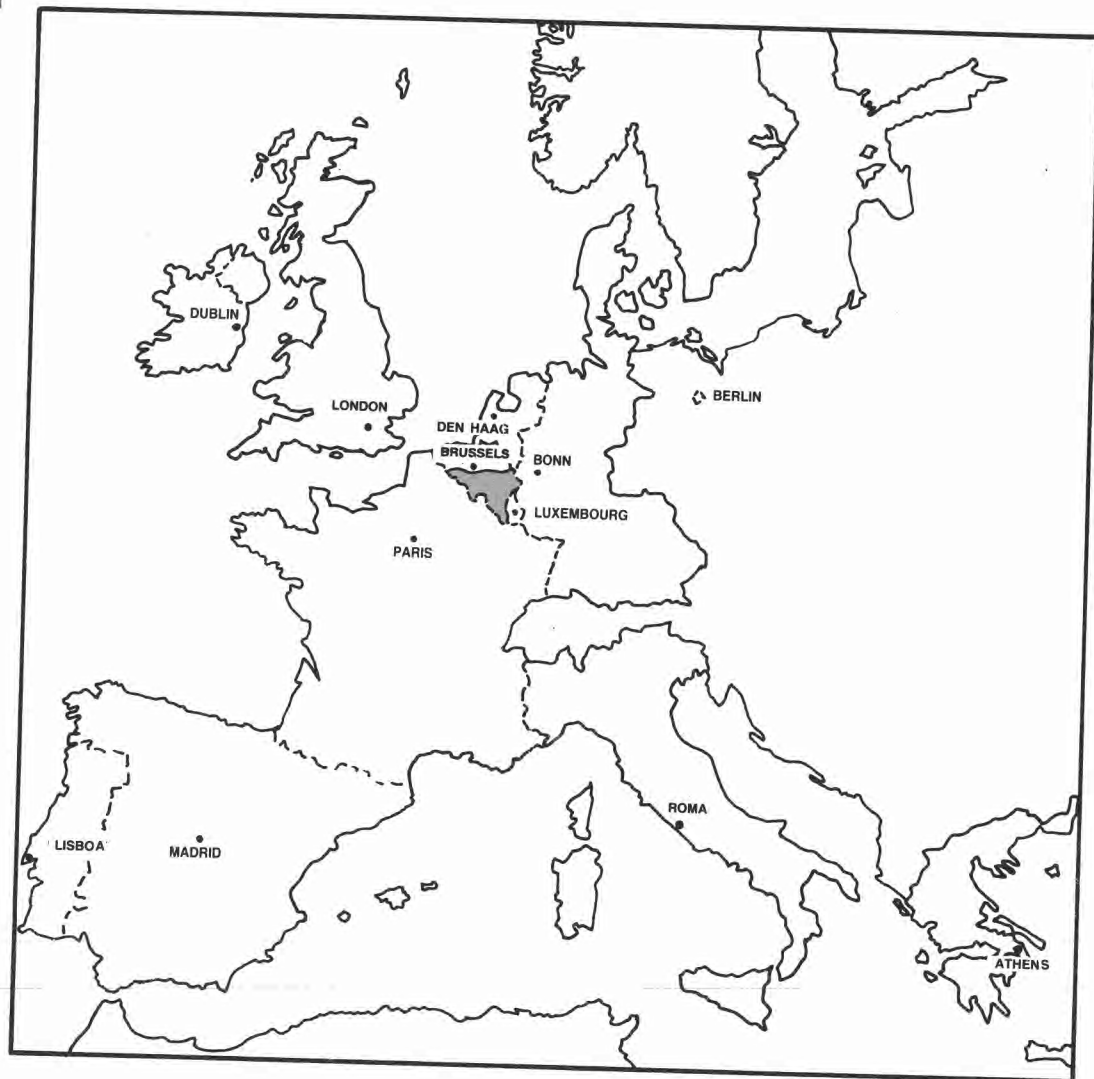
Thierry EGGERICKX
Research scientist at the Catholic University of Louvain

Dominique TOMBEUR
Maps and drawings

The "Belgian American Heritage" association wants to make a larger number of people aware of the memories of Belgian emigration and to invite those people to maintain socio-cultural relations with the descendants of the pioneers. Committees are active in Wallonia (Belgium), Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Minnesota, Massachusetts and Florida. They work with clubs like the "Peninsula Belgian American Club" in Wisconsin.

The association publishes a quarterly periodical.

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